15. Antodaya Anna Yojana.

16. Public Health measures — safe driking water and sanitation.

Bird Flu vaccine license

1900. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any danger of Bird Flu virus and its consequences in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian pharmaceutical companies are awaiting for a license to produce and sell drugs to control Bird Flu;

(c) whether Government have ensured testing of H5N1 Bird Flu virus in the laboratoties of India; and

(d) the steps being taken to produce sufficient quantity of drugs eneded in the event of Bird Flu striking on a larger scale in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) World Health Organization (WHO) has issued an alert that Bird Flu could spread to India and other countries from the very first time that the current outbreak on Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1) was first detected in the Republic of Korea in December, 2003.

No case of Bird Flue (Avian Influenza) has been reported in India either in humans or bird in the current outbreak.

M/s. Hetero Drugs an Indian pharmaceutical company has been granted license to manufacture the active pharmaceutical ingredient of Oseltamivir which is the WHO recommended drug.

Department of Animal Husbandary has intensified surveillance and disease intelligence. Samples so far tested at High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL). Bhopal were found negative.

Order enquiry has been placed for one million dose of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) with M/S. Roche. Indigenous manufacturing capability for the same drug has been assessed. M/s. CIPLA, M/s. Ranbaxy and

M/s. Hetero Drugs have confirmed of their capability to manufature. Product would be made available in January, 2006.

Procedure for taking a Government Doctor outside the hospital for treatment of patient

1901. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure for taking a Government doctor outside the hospital within the same city and State; and

(b) what is the procedure to take a Government doctor outside the State to consult him for his own old patient not able to visit him otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No procedure for taking a doctor belonging to Central Health Service outside the hospital for treatment has been prescribed in the Central Health Service Rules 1996.

Outbreak of plague in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

1902. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some doubts have recently been raised about the likelihood of the outbreak of plague in the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh and the adjoining areas of Uttaranchal due to the presence of big sized rodents in those areas;

(b) if so, the exact chances of outbreak of plague there, according to Government information; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Plague is an acute communicable disease caused by Yersinia pestis and transmitted to man by the biet of an infected rat flea. It is primarily a Zoonosis being a disease of rodents and man is affected incidentally.